



## State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION

### Sarcoidosis Awareness Month

**WHEREAS**, sarcoidosis is an inflammatory disease that can affect almost any organ in the body; and

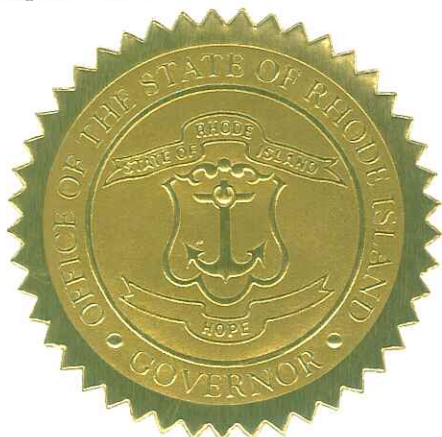
**WHEREAS**, sarcoidosis causes heightened immunity, which means that a person's immune system, which normally protects the body from infection and disease, overreacts, resulting in damage to the body's own tissues; and

**WHEREAS**, in people in the United States, sarcoidosis most commonly targets the lungs and lymph nodes, but the disease can and usually does affect others organs, too, including (but not limited to) the skin, eyes, liver, salivary glands, sinuses, kidneys, heart, the muscles and bones, and the brain and nervous system; and

**WHEREAS**, the disease can affect people of any age, race and gender; however, it is most common among adults between the ages of 20 and 40; and

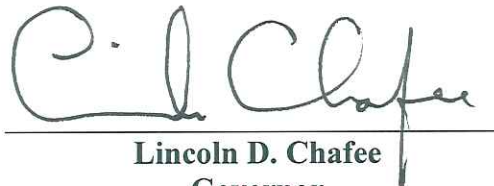
**WHEREAS**, while progress has been made in understanding the symptoms and better diagnosing the disease, little is known about who is susceptible to sarcoidosis and the cause remains unknown, and with increased research, discovering the cause, improving treatment and finding a cure may be well within our reach; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lincoln D. Chafee**, Governor of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations do hereby proclaim April, 2012 as Sarcoidosis Awareness Month in the State of Rhode Island and encourage all of its citizens to join me in recognizing the importance of this month.



  
A. Ralph Mollis  
Secretary of State

Given under my hand and the great  
seal of the State of Rhode Island  
and Providence Plantations,  
this 29<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2012

  
Lincoln D. Chafee  
Governor